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United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
New York, 26 June-7 July 2006

Report of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

I. Introduction

1. In the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects held in New York from 9 to 20 July 2001,[1] Member States recommend that the General Assembly convene a conference, no later than 2006, to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, the date and venue to be decided at the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

2. In its resolution 58/241 of 23 December 2003, the General Assembly decided to convene a United Nations conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action in New York for a period of two weeks between June and July 2006.

3. In its resolution 59/86 of 3 December 2004, the General Assembly decided that the United Nations conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects would be held in New York for a period of two weeks, from 26 June to 7 July 2006.

[1] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9-20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

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4. In the same resolution, the General Assembly decided that the preparatory committee for the conference should hold a two-week session in New York from 9 to 20 January 2006.

5. The Preparatory Committee subsequently held a two-week session at United Nations Headquarters from 9 to 20 January 2006, the report of which is contained in document A/CONF.192/2006/RC/1.

6. By its decision I, the Preparatory Committee endorsed the candidacy of Prasad Kariyawasam of Sri Lanka for the presidency of the Conference and requested that he undertake the necessary consultations and handle technical and other organizational matters in the period before the Conference. Subsequently, five informal meetings were convened by the President-designate from March to May 2006.

II. Organizational matters and proceedings of the Conference

A. Opening and duration of the Conference

7. The United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects was convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 26 June to 7 July 2006. The Conference was opened on 26 June 2006 by the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs. At the same meeting, Prasad Kariyawasam was elected President of the Conference. The President of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the Conference. Saijin Zhang of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management served as Secretary-General of the Conference. The Conference held plenary meetings and informal meetings. The list of participants is contained in document A/CONF.192/2006/RC/INF/1.

B. Rules of procedure

8. At its 1st meeting, on 26 June, the Conference adopted its rules of procedure (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/5).

C. Agenda

9. At its 1st meeting, on 26 June, the Conference adopted the agenda (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/4) as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
2. Election of the President.
3. Statement by the President.
4. Address by the President of the General Assembly.

5. Address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

6. Adoption of the rules of procedure.

7. Adoption of the agenda.

8. Organization of work.

9. Election of officers other than the President.

10. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:

    (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;

    (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.

11. Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the Conference.

12. Submission of the report of the Preparatory Committee by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee.

13. General exchange of views.

14. Statements by participants other than States.

15. Adoption of the final documents of the Conference.

16. Adoption of the report of the Conference to the General Assembly.

D. Officers

10. The composition of the Bureau of the Conference was as follows:

President:

Prasad Kariyawasam (Sri Lanka)

Vice-Presidents:

Larbi El Hadj Ali (Algeria)
Gabriela Martinic (Argentina)
Dziunik Aghajanian (Armenia)
Dorothea Auer (Austria)
M. Zulfiqur Rahman (Bangladesh)
Andrei Dapkiunas (Belarus)
Jean-Francis Regis Zinsou (Benin)
Carlos Sergio Duarte (Brazil)
Radoslav Deyanov (Bulgaria)
Earl Turcotte (Canada)
Wu Haitao (China)
Josef Vitek (Czech Republic)
Camilo Reyes (Colombia)
Frederic Bijou (Costa Rica)
Khaled Abdel Rahman Shamaa (Egypt)
Kari Kahiluoto (Finland)
Witjaksono Adji (Indonesia)
Reza Najafi (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Meir Itzchaki (Israel)
Raymond Wolfe (Jamaica)

Yoshiki Mine (Japan)
Simeon A. Adekanye (Nigeria)
Jacek Januchowski (Poland)
Antonio Garcia Revelli (Peru)*
Emmanuel Rene Moise (Senegal)
Aljaz Arih (Slovenia)
David Robin Wensley (South Africa)
Juan Antonio Yanez-Barnuevo (Spain)
Jurg Streuli (Switzerland).

E. Documentation

11. The documents of the Conference are listed in the annex to the present report.

III. Credentials

12. Pursuant to rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Conference (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/5), according to which the composition of the Credentials Committee shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, the Conference appointed Cameroon, China, Panama, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sierra Leone and the United States of America as members of the Credentials Committee of the Conference.

13. At its 13th meeting, on 7 July, the Conference adopted the draft resolution recommended by the Credentials Committee in paragraph 13 of its report (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/8), which had examined the credentials of the representatives of the member States to the Conference and found them to be in order.

IV. General exchange of views

14. At its 1st to 7th meetings, held from 26 to 29 June, and at its 11th meeting on 3 July the Conference held its high-level segment and general exchange of views.

15. At its 1st meeting on 26 June, the Conference heard statements by representatives of Austria (on behalf of the European Union), Belgium, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Japan, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Argentina (on behalf of MERCOSUR and associated States), Myanmar (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Albania and Indonesia.

16. At its 2nd meeting, on 27 June, Sylvester Ekundayo Rowe (Sierra Leone), in his capacity as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, introduced the report of the Preparatory Committee (see A/CONF.192/2006/RC/1).

17. Also at its 2nd meeting, the Conference heard statements by the representatives of Switzerland, Colombia, Papua New Guinea (on behalf of Pacific

* The Secretariat was informed by the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations, in a fax dated 14 July 2006, that Mr. Ricardo Morote acted as Vice-President during the Review Conference.

Islands Forum Group), Barbados (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Germany, Canada, Slovenia (on behalf of the Human Security Network), Jamaica, Australia, China, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Morocco, Fiji and Mali.

18. At its 3rd meeting, on 27 June, the Conference heard statements by the representatives of Nicaragua, Algeria (on behalf of the Arab Group), India, Zimbabwe (on behalf of the African Group), Belarus (on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization), Liberia, Burkina Faso, Lebanon, Andorra, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Kenya, Namibia, Costa Rica, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Viet Nam, Kyrgyzstan and the Netherlands.

19. At its 4th meeting, on 27 June, the Conference heard statements by the representatives of the Congo, Mozambique, the United States, Zambia, the Republic of Korea, Ghana, Bolivia, the Russian Federation, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Syrian Arab Republic, Peru, Uruguay, Turkey, the United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, South Africa and Israel.

20. At its 5th meeting, on 28 June, the Conference heard statements by the representatives of Gabon, Angola, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Cambodia and Ukraine.

21. At its 6th meeting, on 28 June, the Conference heard statements by the representatives of the Dominican Republic, Malaysia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Spain, Liechtenstein, Iraq, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Uganda, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Benin, Algeria, the Philippines, Togo, Zimbabwe, the Holy See, Qatar and Jordan.

22. At its 7th meeting, on 29 June, the Conference heard statements from Solomon Islands, Panama, Tajikistan, Senegal, El Salvador, Belarus, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

23. At its 10th meeting, on 30 June, the Conference conducted a thematic debate and exchange of views on progress and problems in the implementation of the Programme of Action, with specific emphasis on international cooperation and assistance and best practice of small arms and light weapons projects, co-chaired by Ambassador Yoshiki Mine (Japan) and Ambassador Pasi Patokallio (Finland). Statements were made by the representatives of Cambodia, Austria (on behalf of the European Union), Japan, Australia, Canada, Sri Lanka, Lesotho, Samoa, Mali, Papua New Guinea, the United States and Indonesia (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement) and by representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Regional Centre on Small Arms.

24. At its 11th meeting, on 3 July, the Conference concluded its high-level segment and general exchange of views and heard statements from the representatives of Cuba, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Guatemala, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Nigeria, Armenia, Iceland, the Republic of Moldova, the Central African Republic, Nepal, Botswana, Niger (on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States Group in New York), Burundi, Haiti, Rwanda, Ecuador and the Permanent Observer of Palestine.

Statements by participants other than States

25. At its 7th meeting, on 29 June, the Conference also heard statements from the following international and regional organizations: Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA), Interpol, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Organization of American States, League of Arab States, Regional Centre on Small Arms, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), UNDP, East African Community, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), OSCE, World Health Organization (WHO), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

26. At its 8th meeting, on 29 June, the Conference heard a statement by the representative of ECOWAS.

27. At its 9th meeting, on 30 June, the Conference heard statements by the following non-governmental organizations and individuals: Defence Small Arms Advisory Committee, World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities, British Shooting Sports Council, Canadian Institute for Legislative Action, ProTELL of Switzerland, South African Gunowners' Association, Brazil Coalition, National Firearms Association of Canada, National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association, Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute, Safari Club International, FAIR Trade Group, Manufacturers Advisory Group of the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities, International Action Network on Small Arms, Ms. Shelley Barry, Amnesty International, Congolese Action Network on Small Arms, Million Mom March, Oxfam, Mr. Julius Arile Lomerinyang, Permanent Peace Movement, Mr. Kingsley Rodrigo, Instituto Sou da Paz (Brazil), Centre for Democratic Empowerment (Liberia), Association of People with Disabilities, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (El Salvador), Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, and Council of Churches.

V. Consideration and adoption of the final documents of the Conference and the report of the Conference to the General Assembly

28. The Conference held a number of informal meetings from 30 June to 7 July 2006, at which it considered and negotiated the draft final document.

29. At its informal meeting, on 29 June, the Conference decided to turn a non-paper submitted by the President on 27 June into a working paper of the Conference (see A/CONF.192/2006/RC/WP.4).

30. At its 14th meeting, on 7 July, the Conference was not able to agree to conclude a final document. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted its report to the General Assembly by consensus.

Annex

Documentation

The Conference had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/1);

(b) Letter dated 16 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the secretariat of the review Conference (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/2);

(c) Letter dated 19 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the President-designate of the review Conference (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/3);

(d) Agenda (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/4);

(e) Rules of procedure of the Conference (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/5);

(f) Note verbale dated 29 June 2006 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the secretariat of the review Conference (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/6);

(g) Note by the Secretariat (Declaration of Antigua, Guatemala, A/CONF.192/2006/RC/7);

(h) Report of the Credentials Committee (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/8);

(i) Draft provisional agenda (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/L.1);

(j) Provisional rules of procedure of the Conference (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/L.2);

(k) Working paper submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/WP.1);

(l) Working paper submitted by Kenya (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/WP.2);

(m) Working paper submitted by Canada (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/WP.3);

(n) Working paper submitted by the President (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/WP.4);

(o) Working paper submitted by Ghana, Kenya, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Uganda and United Kingdom (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/WP.5);

(p) Working paper submitted by Nicaragua (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/WP.6);

(q) List of participants (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/INF/1 and Add.1);

(r) List of non-governmental organizations (requesting accreditation in accordance with draft rule 63) (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/INF/2 and Add.1);

(s) Draft indicative programme of work (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/CRP.1);

(t) Conference room paper by the Netherlands (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/CRP.2);

(u) Conference room paper by the Department for Disarmament Affairs: gender guidelines document for the review Conference (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/CRP.3);

(v) Conference room paper by Austria (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/CRP.4);

(w) Conference room paper submitted by Indonesia on behalf of the members of the Non-Aligned Movement (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/CRP.5);

(x) Conference room paper submitted by the African Union (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/CRP.6);

(y) Compilation of proposals and amendments to the President's working paper A/CONF.192/2006/RC/WP.4 (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/CRP.7);

(z) Conference room paper submitted by the African Union dated 6 July 2006 (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/CRP.8).